## Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

## **Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for block encryption of discrete data, comprising the steps of: generating an encryption key in the form of a set of subkeys, breaking down a data block into  $N \ge 2$  <u>data</u> subblocks and alternately converting said <u>data</u> subblocks by performing a two-place operation on the <u>data</u> subblock and the subkey, wherein, prior to carrying out said two-place operation on <u>an</u> i-th <u>data</u> subblock and <u>a</u> subkey, <u>an operation of permuting subkey bits a substitution operation</u> is performed on the subkey depending on <u>the value of a j-th data</u> subblock, where  $i \ne j$ .

Claim 2 (cancelled)

Claim 3 (currently amended): The method according to claim 12, wherein an operation of cyclic offsetting subkey bits depending on the value of the j-th data subblock is used as the j-th data subblock-dependent operation of permuting subkey bits.

Claim 4 (cancelled)

Claim 5 (new) The method according to claim 1, wherein the operation of permuting subkey bits is performed on one of said set of subkeys depending on the value of the j-th data subblock, where  $i \neq j$ , and the value of another subkey.